

The Dead Horse

November 2009

DISPATCH

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

Last Month's Who Knows This One?

*Toucan bird spotted at Dead Horse Ranch State Park?
Anyone-Can! Any Two-Can! Who Can? You Can! Become a
Volunteer at Dead Horse Ranch State Park!!*

In early August we had our *first ever* sighting of a Toucan (*TWO-CAN*). Toucans are neotropical birds that are common in Southern Mexico, Central & South America as well as the Carribean region. To see one this far north is a rarity.

According to amateur ornithologist, Barbara Penny, she's pretty sure that, "this bird is a little *"off-course"* and is now nesting within the Quetta Pine Orchard. Judging by its uncommon markings it may also be a *little bit cuckoo*," she adds. The scientific name for this rare breed is Davidicus Pennicus.

Researchers have discovered that the large bill of the toucan is a highly efficient thermoregulation system, though its size may still be advantageous in other ways. It does aid in their feeding behavior (as they sit in one spot and reach for all fruit in range, thereby reducing energy expenditure). It has also been theorized that its bill may intimidate smaller birds, so that the toucan may plunder nests undisturbed.



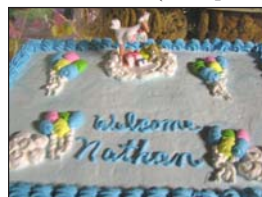
In its range, toucans (*TWO-CANS!!*) are the dominant frugivores, and as such play an *extremely important* ecological role as vectors for seed dispersal of fruiting trees. Often when eating small fruits, a *TWO-CAN* will throw its head back and allow the fruit to roll into its throat before swallowing. The park volunteers have been feeding the visiting two-can (nicknamed Dave) a steady supply of day-old park doughnuts in an effort to keep it here as an adjunct to the upcoming Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival. Thanks Dave!!

Respectfully submitted by Ranger Eric

DHRSP Showers Ranger Eric & Rebecca



Welcome Nathan party sponsored by Eric & Rebecca. Hosted by volunteers, Rangers and friends. (more pics next page)



2000 Bobbers Party! Happy B Day Bill!

2000th Bobber Party was held in honor of Roy Johnson at the Lagoons. Surprise party was held for Bill L after.



DHRSP Showers (cont)

Eric & Rebecca (and Nathan)



BSA Camporee October 16-18th

**FIREBIRD
DISTRICT**



Over 600 Boy Scouts camped out at DHRSP. They enjoyed fishing, games, cooking, and awards around the campfire. One headscout leader said, "We came to escape the heat of Phoenix and enjoy the star-filled nights here at Dead Horse."



The National Guard brought a challenging adventure of their own to the festivities.

What's New at DHRSP

For those of you far away and deep in wonder about what is happening at DHRSP lately, here is a small overview of what has happened at the park since you have been gone.



After the last flood of the monsoons, the creek no longer flows under or across the road. Nor does it flow between the lagoons. All that is left is a dry creek.



The Trout are coming!!
1st week of Nov!!!

Judy Lee's Wedding



Special Thanks!

Special thanks to the volunteers that helped out for Verde River Days. This may not even include all of Max's volunteers: Ken & Gigi House, Bob Akey, Bob & Ann Nason, Frank & Rose Larramore, Jack & Robbie Bard, Dave & Barb Penny, Wes & Carolyn Scott, Pat Hawker, Bill LaFleur, Carol Johnson, Carolyn Meehan, Trish Muchler, Sandy Kendall, Bill Turner, Fran Nile, Bill Fritz, Jake Pratt, Ken & Karen McCormick, Charles & Brenda Mullin, Sharon Ferguson, Maxine Bean, Bernie & Theresa Munson, Elizabeth Bovee, George Gilbert & Bev Sass.

Volunteer News Coming & Goings

- * Teresa & Bernie Munson are the Raven Hosts... Opps for last month...
- * Laurie Blitsch Quail Loop #42 Nov 1st
- * Norm & Nan Hephner Nov 1st Quail Loop #40
- * Gary & Sharon Munson Quail Loop #41 Nov 1st
- * Jim & Maryan Harris Nov 1st Raven Maint #2
- * John & Wanda Ward Nov 15th Coopers Hawk
- * Bob & Ann Nason are staying on as cabin hosts thru January HOORAY!!
- * Frank & Rose Larramore leaving Oct 31st Heading back to Florida to be with family.
- * Jack & Robbie Bard & dogs Tinker & Buddy leaving Oct 31st to Queen Creek

Dates to Remember November

- 2 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- 16 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- 26 - **Thanksgiving Day**
- 30 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

Very interesting photos (Verde River Days). Of course, we still recognize some of the people - even Eric. ha Sue Neal

Hi guy & dolls, Yesterday we had wet snow flurries here @ our park. It was 36 @ 4:30 pm, yuk! Just the thought of it makes me ill. The trees are wonderful and full of fall colours, but everyday for the last week its rained. Last night I saw a huge Bull Moose with a huge rack. He saw our head lights and took off into the bush..It's amazing how they can go into thick bush and leave almost no trail. See ya's soon! Say hi to little john when he comes out of the womb. With love.. John-boy and Wanda Too! Happy Trails to You.

A Note of Thanks From Our Park Manager: Les Bovee

Each of you helped make Verde River Days 2009 a tremendous success. Final count on our ranger station counter was 3,272 visitors. Some had arrived early and were not counted and our campers were not included in the count (the campground loops were near capacity). I estimated total attendance to be 3,500. I want to thank every one of you for your help. Without your support we wouldn't be able to do events like Verde River Days. Dead Horse Ranch volunteer efforts reach far beyond the boundaries of the park. Verde River Days provides the incentive for many people to pay us a first visit. Our out of town visitors will undoubtedly be back and our local visitors will have gained an additional realization of the value that is inherent in the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Verde Valley.

Renee Bahl, our new Agency Director and this year's Keynote Speaker was very impressed with the event and our outreach to the community and beyond. Thanks for all you do that enables Dead Horse Ranch to stand out in our state park system. Dead Horse Ranch State Park and the people who love it are truly an "Arizona Treasure".

We have been enjoying reading the DHRSP Dispatch over the past few months. Congratulations to Carolyn and all those who contribute. It is great to hear that Les is making progress with his vision issues. We are enjoying a more relaxed schedule now that the summer tourists are thinning out. The Orcas have been in the area almost every day since mid-June (they were pretty scarce in April-May). It has been very busy for a season we thought might be slow, because of the recession. September and early October are beautiful here and we hope to enjoy some time cruising and doing a little maintenance on our boat. By early November we will, no doubt, be getting tired of the rain and longing to get to Arizona. Do any of those trails need attention? Please pass out "hello" to everyone. Cheers, Pete and Nancy

November Milestones

(Birthdays & Anniversaries)

- 5-Tony Viotti
- 11-Roger & Carolyn McCartney
- 13-Carol Nank
- 16-Bob Akey
- 18-Del & Anne Foster
- 19-Dick Niemi
- 22-Bob Mann
- 24-Dan Albright



"Here is a photo taken at the nursing home a few days ago. Can you believe Dad is almost 95?" Nan Hephner wrote. "A lot of you sent email messages and I printed those out and took them to him. I think he was impressed by how many out there are thinking about him and praying for him. Thank you."



Hi Eric, Just got the latest newsletter and info about the expected baby. Congratulations to you and Rebecca. We hope all is well and will continue to be so until baby arrives. You must be so excited!!! Get all the sleep you can in the next few months because your life will never be the same after the little one joins your family. Anne Howe

Calling All RVers/Campers

The DHRSP Newsletter is looking for Camping?Traveling Tips from all you volunteers. We are thinking that maybe you folks could write and send in via email or letters some of your space-saving, cost-saving ideas, travel tips, storage tips, etc., that you use while "on the road". Please submit to carolynmeehan@comcast.net. Thanks a million!

- On the Road Tips: Douglas Palosaari
- 1. WD-40. Works great for removing road tar and oil from camper. Just spray in on wait about 30 seconds and wipe it off.
- 2. Finding the best price on a campground: Use the Internet. Do a Google search by typing in the name of the closest "town" and the word "campground". You should get a good listing of all the campground in that area. Also the website www.rvparkreviews.com has a fair listing of many campgrounds. Use one of the half price clubs. Passport America is a good example.
- 3. When camping at a State Park, after setting up. Take a drive around the campground. You can often pick up left over campfire wood that others have left behind.
- 4. Cleaning and disinfecting. Use a spray bottle and fill with bleach and water. Use to clean and disinfect all surfaces in your camper. Also use to spray the ends of your hose and water spigot. Did you know many animals like to drink from the dripping water of a water spigot?
- 5. Use any window cleaner mix and get a squeegee & brush on a long extension pole. You can find these in the auto department. Then use it to squeegee the windows clean on the Rv and tow vehicle.
- 8. I've created two Camper Business Cards. The first one has my basic address, e-mail, phone number and Blog address. I use this one to hand out to new found camper friends I meet along the way. The second one is for handing out to the campground check-in host. It contains information required for check-ins. Including Truck and RV description, tag numbers for both, my name, address, phone number. It makes it much easier for the person checking me in to have all the info already printed out. Some campsites just staple it to their form.